

# HENNEPIN COUNTY

## ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

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3/2/23

Representative Sandra Feist  
100 Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr Boulevard  
409 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senator Bobby Joe Champion  
95 University Avenue W.  
Minnesota Senate Bldg., Room 3401  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Senate President Champion, Rep. Feist, and Members of the House and Senate:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my support for HF1712 and SF1514, a bill that would provide critical support for prevention, intervention, and programs that reduce barriers to services for young people involved or at risk of involvement in the criminal or juvenile justice system.

Investments like this are among the most important we could make to improve safety in our communities. When we invest in supports and resources for youth, their families, and our communities, we are making powerful investments in public safety. This bill will provide comprehensive prevention resources that will keep youth out of the justice system, avoiding the lifelong detrimental consequences that system involvement brings, and will provide important resources allowing us to intervene in a developmentally-appropriate way if a youth does enter the system. Additionally, the supports related to barrier reduction will be critical for addressing underlying factors that drive youth into the system, including poverty, homelessness, and lack of access to healthcare.

Investing in these services is not only the right thing to do for our young people, it's also the smart thing to do for our community. Research shows that prevention and intervention programs are effective at reducing crime and recidivism rates. They also promote equity and fairness by addressing the underlying structural factors that contribute to disparities in our justice system.

I urge you to support this bill and to help us create a safer and more just community for all young people in Hennepin County and across Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Mary F. Moriarty  
Hennepin County Attorney